

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A dance shoe adapted for urging a foot into an arch shape comprising:

a shoe upper;

a sole attached to said shoe upper, said sole having a heel region, a toe region and an arch extending between said heel region and said toe region, wherein a bottom of said heel region defines a horizontally extending ground plane; and

said arch being sufficiently curved so that at least a portion of said toe region of said dance shoe is projected downwardly below the horizontally extending ground plane, wherein the toe region of said sole extends upwardly along opposite sides of said dance shoe.

2. (original) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sole is flexible.

3. (original) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the toe region of said sole has a bottom surface that lies below the horizontally extending ground plane.

4. (cancel)

5. (cancel)

6. (cancel)

7. (cancel)

8. (original) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sole is made of a material selected from the group consisting of rubber, polymer, synthetics and leather.

9. (currently amended) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 1, wherein said upper is made of a material selected from the group consisting of GORE®, porous fabric that prevents water from passing therethrough in one direction while allowing moisture to pass therethrough in an opposite direction LYCRA®, mesh fabric, stretchable fabric, elastic fabric, leather, cotton fabric, synthetic fabric and polymer fabric.

10. (cancel)

11. (cancel)

12. (cancel)

13. (cancel)

14. (cancel)

15. (cancel)

16. (new) A dance shoe comprising:

a shoe upper having a heel section, a toe section and a foot opening between said heel section and said toe section, said shoe upper further comprising a plurality of eyelets extending between said toe section of said shoe upper and said foot opening of said shoe upper;

a shoe lace passing through said plurality of eyelets for tightening said shoe upper about a foot;

a sole attached to said shoe upper, said sole having a heel region, a toe region and a concave arch extending between said heel region of said sole and said toe region of said sole, wherein a bottom of said heel region defines a horizontally extending ground plane, and wherein said arch is sufficiently curved so that at least a portion of said toe region of said dance shoe is projected downwardly below the horizontally extending ground plane.

17. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 16, wherein said toe region of said sole extends upwardly along opposite sides of said dance shoe.

18. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 16, wherein said toe region of said sole extends upwardly along opposite sides of said shoe upper of said dance shoe.

19. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a tongue extending between said toe section of said shoe upper and said foot opening of said shoe upper.

20. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 19, wherein said shoe lace overlies said tongue.

21. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 16, wherein said sole is flexible.

22. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 16, wherein the toe region of said sole has a bottom surface that lies below the horizontally extending ground plane.

23. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 16, wherein said sole is made of a material selected from the group consisting of rubber, polymer, synthetics and leather.

24. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 16, wherein said upper is made of a material selected from the group consisting of porous fabric that prevents water from passing therethrough in one direction while allowing moisture to pass therethrough in an opposite direction, mesh fabric, stretchable fabric, elastic fabric, leather, cotton fabric, synthetic fabric and polymer fabric.

25. (new) A dance shoe adapted for urging a foot into an arch shape comprising:

a shoe upper;

a sole attached to said shoe upper, said sole having a heel region, a toe region and a concave arch extending between said heel region and said toe region, wherein said sole has a length and said concave arch comprises at least $1/3$ of the length of said sole, wherein a bottom of said heel region defines a horizontally extending ground plane and said concave arch is sufficiently curved so that at least a portion of said toe region of said dance shoe is projected downwardly below the horizontally extending ground plane.

26. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 25, wherein said toe region of said sole extends upwardly along opposite sides of said dance shoe.

27. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 25, wherein said shoe upper comprises a heel section, a toe section and a foot opening between said heel section and said toe

section, said shoe upper further comprising a plurality of eyelets extending between said toe section of said shoe upper and said foot opening of said shoe upper; and

said dance shoe further comprising a shoe lace passing through said plurality of eyelets for tightening said shoe upper about a foot.

28. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 27, further comprising a tongue extending between said toe section of said shoe upper and said foot opening of said shoe upper.

29. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 28, wherein said shoe lace overlies said tongue.

30. (new) The dance shoe as claimed in claim 25, wherein said sole is flexible.